

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 82

Introduced by Assembly Member Pan

September 6, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 82—Relative to food allergy awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 82, as introduced, Pan. Food allergy awareness.

This measure would encourage all Californians to make themselves and their families aware of the risk of food allergies and preventative measures, and to educate themselves regarding emergency responses and would declare September as food Allergy Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, As many as 15 million people in the United States
2 have a food allergy; and
3 WHEREAS, Research indicates the prevalence of food allergies
4 is increasing among children. Six million children under 18 years
5 of age, roughly two in every classroom, have a food allergy; and
6 WHEREAS, The eight foods that cause 90 percent of all food
7 allergy reactions in the United States are shellfish, fish, milk, eggs,
8 tree nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat; and
9 WHEREAS, A food allergy occurs when the immune system
10 mistakenly targets a harmless food protein, an allergen, as a threat
11 and attacks it. The immune system releases abnormally large
12 amounts of antibodies that fight the food allergens, which in turn
13 trigger the symptoms of an allergic reaction; and

1 WHEREAS, Symptoms of a food allergy can include a tingling
2 sensation in the mouth, swelling of the tongue and throat, difficulty
3 breathing, hives, vomiting, a drop in blood pressure, loss of
4 consciousness, or death; and

5 WHEREAS, Consumption of a food allergen may lead to
6 anaphylaxis, a potentially fatal condition in which several different
7 parts of the body experience the allergic reaction and can, within
8 minutes of exposure, lead to difficulty breathing and
9 unconsciousness; and

10 WHEREAS, The Natalie Giorgi Sunshine Foundation was
11 created after the death of Natalie Marie Giorgi, a 13-year-old girl
12 who passed away because of a severe allergic reaction to peanuts,
13 in order to reduce dangerous food allergy deaths by spreading
14 public awareness, providing education regarding emergency
15 responses, and increasing the availability of epinephrine injectors
16 in public places; and

17 WHEREAS, There is no cure for a food allergy, and the only
18 sure way to avoid a reaction is to exercise strict avoidance of an
19 allergen; and

20 WHEREAS, Food Allergy Research and Education, a nonprofit
21 organization, works on behalf of 15 million people in the United
22 States with food allergies to ensure the safety of individuals with
23 food allergies by providing education and resources and investing
24 in research that advances treatment and understanding of food
25 allergies; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That all Californians be encouraged to make
28 themselves and their families aware of the risk of food allergies
29 and preventative measures, and to educate themselves regarding
30 emergency responses; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That September is Food Allergy Awareness Month;
32 and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
34 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.